



**City of Milwaukee**  
**Text File**  
**As of September 15, 2004**  
**Ordinance**

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

**Introduced:** 7/7/2004

**File Number:** 040388

**Status:** In Committee

**Version:** 2

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR

An ordinance relating to smoke alarms and smoke detectors in dwellings.

This ordinance makes the following changes to the city's regulations for smoke alarms and smoke detectors in dwellings:

1. Battery-operated smoke alarms in a dwelling may be tested by the owner or the owner's representative, rather than just the owner alone. An adult occupant of a dwelling unit may be the designated tester of smoke alarms within that unit.
2. Testing of battery-operated smoke alarms in dwellings shall be conducted not less than once per calendar year, rather than on a quarterly basis.
3. Testing shall be performed in accordance with the smoke alarm manufacturer's specifications for testing.
4. Within one year of passage of this ordinance, every smoke alarm located within 20 feet of the primary cooking appliance in a dwelling unit shall be required to have a silencing switch ("hush button").
5. Every residential building other than a one- or 2-family dwelling shall have a functional smoke detector or alarm at the head of every stairway on each floor level in the building.
6. Not all dwellings may have battery-operated or plug-in smoke detectors or alarms; the type of smoke detectors or alarms permitted depends on when the building was constructed and the code in effect at that time.

The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Milwaukee do ordain as follows:

Part 1. Section 214-23 of the code is amended to read:

214-23. Battery-Operated Smoke Alarms. Every battery-operated smoke alarm shall be tested by the owner >>or the owner's representative<< [[on a quarterly basis]] >>not less than once every calendar year<< . >>For other than common areas, the owner may designate an adult occupant as the owner's representative for the purpose of testing those smoke alarms which are located inside the occupant's dwelling.<< The owner >>or owner's representative is responsible for retaining the test results and<<

shall provide a copy of test results to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee upon request. Test results [[shall be kept on the premises and]] shall include the dates on which testing was performed and the name, telephone number and >>, with respect to<< [[property relationship of]] the person who performed the tests >>, such person's relationship to the property<< . [[Testing shall insure smoke entry into the sensing chamber and an alarm response. The method of the test shall be with smoke or a listed aerosol approved for that use by the manufacturer.]] >>Testing shall be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications for testing. By [city clerk to insert date that is one year from the date of passage of this ordinance], every owner shall take the actions necessary to ensure that any smoke alarm located within 20 feet of the primary cooking appliance within the unit has a silencing switch ("hush button").<<

Part 2. Section 214-27-0 of the code is amended to read:

214-27. Smoke Detectors >>and Smoke Alarms<< for Residential Dwellings >>Built Prior to January 1, 1983<< .

Part 3. Section 214-27-2 and 3 of the code is amended to read:

2. NUMBER AND LOCATION. Every dwelling unit in a residential building >>constructed prior to January 1, 1983<<shall be provided with approved listed and labeled smoke detectors >>or alarms<< sensing visible or invisible particles of combustion, installed in a manner and location consistent with [[its]] >>their<< listing. A minimum of one smoke detector >>or alarm<< shall be installed in the basement and on each floor level except in an unfinished attic or storage area >>, and not in a kitchen<< . For floor levels containing a sleeping area, the required detector >>or alarm<< shall be installed within 6 feet of the sleeping area. If a floor level contains 2 or more separate sleeping areas, each sleeping area shall be provided with a smoke detector >>or alarm<<. >>Every residential building other than a one- or 2-family dwelling shall have a functional smoke detector or alarm at the head of every stairway on each floor level in the building.<<

3. TYPE. Smoke detectors >>and alarms<< required under this section shall be single station devices, either battery operated, plug-in or directly wired A/C units >>unless otherwise required by the code<< .

---

LRB04120-1

JDO

06/30/04